

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 856

By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to commend the members of the East
Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association for
their efforts to honor Tennessee's veterans.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has a rich historical legacy, and it is of great importance that our heritage be protected and nourished so that future generations might learn and benefit from it; and

WHEREAS, the heroic deeds of Tennessee's soldiers have been extolled throughout the history of our State and Nation; our Nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of these brave men and women must never be forgotten and their memory should not be neglected, as their efforts made possible the exemplary quality of life that is enjoyed by the citizens of Tennessee today; and

WHEREAS, the good people of the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (ETVMA) are outstanding individuals who are making a laudable effort to protect our state's history and honor the memory and contributions of the courageous Tennesseans who have borne arms in defense of this great nation; and

WHEREAS, ETVMA has developed plans for a monument that will be truly worthy of its high purpose; the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial in downtown Knoxville is designed as a pedestrian plaza for Emory Place to link the historic Knoxville High School with the Old Gray and National Cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, the Memorial will display the names of fallen veterans from the "Nine Counties" area surrounding Knoxville, with separate emphasis given to World War I, World War

II, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Gulf War and with powerful quotes to introduce each conflict; and

WHEREAS, flowing water will follow a chronological path through the plaza, which will provide a beautiful and moving setting for both personal reflection and public ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, the Memorial will also include a designated area to honor all those exceptionally heroic Tennesseans who have earned our nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide an education thrust to the project, ETVMA plans to build a Learning and Interpretive Center in conjunction with the Memorial; the primary focus will be on the veterans who are named outside, with an attempt to connect a personal story with each name; and

WHEREAS, the Center will additionally include interactive displays, films, and rotating exhibits to tell the story of the conflicts that are being highlighted, with emphasis given to the homefront, as well as to combat theatres; and

WHEREAS, including a theater and sufficient space to host school groups, the Center will help to make the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial a wonderful asset to Knoxville and a true historical gem in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, though we cannot adequately express our appreciation to the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces who have fought to preserve the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor those who have lost their lives in the service of our country and those brave men and women who are missing in action to the full extent of our ability, as they have made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association are aimed at achieving a singularly noble and worthy goal, and it is appropriate that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to recognize this fine organization and its worthy cause; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize the good people of the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association for their meritorious service to Tennessee, commend their efforts to construct the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial, and wish them the best in all of their endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.